

*The*  
STICKNEY  
1804 DOLLAR





Matthew A. Stickney's letter describing how he traded his Immune  
Columbia gold piece to the U. S. Mint for an 1804 U. S. silver dollar.

Edward Cogan, Esq.  
New York.

119 Boston St.  
Salem, July 2, 1867.

Dear Sir,

I have received from some friendly hand, perhaps yours, the June number of the American Journal of Numismatics in which you notice a paragraph from a California paper, and say truly, that I would not have parted with the dollar of 1804 for twice what was stated I was offered for it.

I was applied to by letter June 4, 1866, by Mr. T. A. Andrews of Charlestown, Mass., for the dollar 1804, which he understood I had in my possession, and wished to obtain by purchase, for a friend in California, or information where he could get another. In reply, I stated that: "I have a genuine proof dollar of the United States Coinage of 1804; I do not dispose of any coins, not duplicates, at any price. It is not likely that if I parted with this dollar I could ever obtain another, as I have been told by a gentleman (W. Elliot Woodward Esq.) largely engaged in selling coins at auction, that he thought that it might bring one thousand dollars. On the 18th of Nov. 1866 Mr. Andrews wrote me again, offering in the name of his friend "\$1000 in currency or the value in gold coin," saying: "I merely make the offer as requested to do, being aware that you stated that you did not dispose of coins except duplicates." I declined the offer of the 23rd of the same month.

No mention was made of this offer to anyone afterwards, and the first notice I received of the California paragraph was from Mr. Poole, a professor in the college at Mexico, who supposed I was the gentleman meant in the notice he had seen in California, when returning to his native place, South Danvers; and who called on me soon after.

Of the genuineness of my U. S. dollar of 1804 I think there cannot be entertained a doubt, as it was handed me directly from the cabinet of the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia on the 9th of May, 1843, by one of its officers who still holds the same situation there and can testify to it. It was not then considered any more valuable than any other of the series, and I only desired it to help make up the chronological series, which I perhaps was the first to attempt to make, of U. S. coins.

Jacob G. Morris, Esq. of Phila. (lost on board of the "Arctic" on his return from Europe in 1854) whom I visited at the same time, in a letter received from him soon after, writes: "I have never cared for making a collection of American coins of each year's coinage; it is only where the style has been altered or where there is any peculiarity in the coin, differing from those in general circulation, that I have cared for them; nor do I see the utility of it to a collector." Dr. Roper and others were of the same opinion.

This dollar has never been out of my house since, nor even handled by those who called to see it; and I was very careful that Monsieur Vattermare, when at my house, should not by some sleight of hand exchange it.

It is a perfect specimen and I was not aware that there was any other original one existing, save the one I left in the cabinet of the Mint. It was obtained with other coins, by an honorable exchange of Pine-Tree money and rarities not in their collection, one piece of which, has since proved to be of exceeding rarity; the "Immune Columbia" in gold, 1783 — which Mr. DuBois notices as a guinea restruck and bearing the date of 1783, page 129 of his work on the collection of coins belonging to the U. S. Mint, 1846 — and which I had obtained the day before of Beebee and Parshall's in New York.

As regards the authenticity of other specimens of the U. S. dollar of 1804, I have no knowledge. Those having dollars of that date (Cohen and Mickley) were not then known at the Mint as collectors, as appears by the list of which I send you a copy, then obtained, 1843, from Mr. DuBois, which remains in his handwriting in my possession, with the addition of the names of Philip Hone of New York and Robert Gilmore of Baltimore, which were added in the handwriting of the late John Allan of New York who was also a distinguished collector.

"Amateurs of coins—Dr. Roper; J. G. Morris, Esq.; Mr. David, (nephew of Mr. Morris); Mr. W. G. Mason; C. C. Ashmead; John Reeve; Mr. Cooper, Camden; H. A. Muhlenberg, Reading; Rev. Dr. Robbins of Hartford (my uncle); Edward B. Wynn, Hamilton."

I have been for nearly 50 years a systematic collector of coins; and for a very long period almost without a competitor; and very many of the rare coins which now enrich other cabinets were, by great solicitation, obtained from me. My facilities for collecting coins were remarkably good; through the friendship of Beebee & Parshall's Bullion Exchange 22½ Wall St. New York. I received from them quarterly from 1843, rare coins I was in search of, at par, and under all the changes of the firm, they continued to favor me till 1854, when in consequence of ill health I gave up my business and ceased to make active efforts for additions to my cabinet, only obtaining the regular series of proof coins from the Mint, which I have received from them for 25 years.

You are at liberty to make what use you may please of my letter, if I have communicated anything that may be of interest to the American Num. & Arch. Society, of which I should be glad to be a member but age and distance prevent.

I am with esteem

Yours truly,

Matthew A. Stickney





THE STICKNEY DOLLAR

NOW IN THE  
WILLIAM C. ATWATER COLLECTION



THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
STICKNEY 1804 DOLLAR




COMPILED BY  
WAYTE RAYMOND  
NEW YORK







## FOREWORD




OWNERSHIP and pride of possession contribute a large part of the pleasure of collecting, and Mr. William C. Atwater of New York is justly proud of owning the celebrated Stickney 1804 Dollar. This is by far the most famous pedigreed coin in America and is one of the outstanding pieces in his remarkable collection of United States coins. The pedigree of this splendid coin dates back to May 9th, 1843, when it was purchased from the cabinet of the U. S. Mint by Mr. Matthew Stickney of Salem, Mass. It remained in the Stickney Collection until after his death in 1894, and was finally sold at auction for his estate by Henry Chapman of Philadelphia in 1907. It thus remained in the possession of Mr. Stickney and his daughters for 64 years. It was purchased at the Chapman auction for \$3,600 by Col. James W. Ellsworth of New York. In 1923 I bought the entire collection of Col. Ellsworth and Mr. Atwater acquired the Stickney Dollar, as well as many other rare pieces, from me. The letters reproduced in this pamphlet speak for themselves and confirm the pedigree of this famous coin from the time it left the United States Mint eighty-eight years ago.

WAYTE RAYMOND.

New York, June, 1931.





*(Extract from the American Journal of Numismatics,  
August, 1867)*

Salem, July 2, 1867.

EDWARD COGAN, ESQ.,  
NEW YORK.

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“\$1,000 in currency or the value in gold coin,” saying: “I merely make the offer as requested to do, being aware that you stated that you did not dispose of coins except duplicates.” I declined the offer the 23rd of the same month.

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after, he writes: "I have never cared for making a collection of American Coins of each year's coinage: it is only where the style has been altered, or where there is any peculiarity in the Coin, differing from those in general circulation, that I have cared for them; nor do I see the utility of it to a Collector." Dr. Roper and others were of the same opinion.

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me till 1854, when in consequence of ill health, I gave up my business.

You are at liberty to make what use you may please of my letter, if I have communicated anything that may be of interest to the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, of which I should be glad to be a member, but age and distance prevent.

I am with esteem, yours truly,


MATTHEW A. STICKNEY,  
119 Boston Street.



Philadelphia, Penna.,  
May 8, 1907.

After very careful comparison I find that the 1804 Dollar brought to the mint by Mr. Henry Chapman, Jr., and stated to belong to the Stickney collection, is from the same die as the Dollar of same date preserved in the Mint.

T. L. CAMPARETTE.



March 23, 1923.

MR. W. C. ATWATER,  
1 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm that the M. A. Stickney 1804 Silver Dollar purchased by him from the Philadelphia Mint in 1843 was bought by me at the auction sale of Mr. Stickney's coins in 1907. This is the same dollar that I have now sold to Mr. Raymond through Messrs. Knoedler & Co.

Yours very truly,  
JAMES W. ELLSWORTH.



WAYTE RAYMOND

*Rare Coins and Medals*

*Numismatic Books*

489 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK

March 19, 1923.

Dear Mr. Atwater:

This is to certify that the 1804 dollar sold you last week was the Stickney dollar from the Ellsworth Collection, the best pedigreed piece known of this date.

Yours very truly,  
WAYTE RAYMOND.





